

Appl. Serial No.: 10/821,441
Response dated 21 April 2006
Reply to Office Action of 22 Feb. 2006

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REMARKS

This paper is in response to the final Office Action mailed 22 February 2006 for the subject application. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration and further examination in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-33 are currently pending and under consideration in the subject application. Original claims 34-69 were previously withdrawn in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more timely divisional applications directed to the subject matter of original claims 34-69.

The Applicants appreciatively note that the Examiner allowed claims 5-6, 16-20, and 24-29 in the Office Action mailed 22 Feb 2006 for the subject application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-15, 21-23, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,239,445 to Shacef in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US2002/0015667 to Chow and in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,998,145 to Maisch.

The present amendment to the claims cancels claims 1-4 and 30-32 (without prejudice) and amends claims 7-15, 21-23, and 33 to depend directly or indirectly from allowed claim 5. Thus, without acceding to the propriety of the rejection, the rejection of claims 1-4, 7-15, 21-23, and 30-33 has been rendered moot.

Conclusion

In light of the previous allowance of claims 5-6, 16-20, and 24-29 and the present amendment to the claims, Applicants submit that all claims currently pending in the subject application are in condition for allowance and, further, request that a Notice of Allowability be issued for the application.

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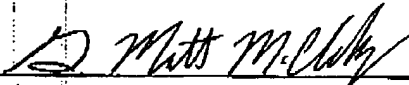
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No fees are believed due for this paper. If, however, any fees are required for the submission of this paper, or otherwise necessary to cover any deficiency in fees already paid, authorization is hereby given to charge our deposit account no. 50-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

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